GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:661
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
MEDIATION BY INDIA IN WEST ASIA PROBLEM
GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA;KAMAL NATH;LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY;MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;MAHBOOB ZAHEDI;MANI SHANKAR AIYAR;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the attacks on Palestinians in West Bank and Ghaza;

(b) if so, whether World organisations have condemned the attacks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of India was approached to mediate in the peace process in West Asia;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the stand of the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) Government have expressed deep concern at the recent incidents of violence in Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza and in other parts of Palestinian National Authority and Israel. At the request of the Arab League, Special Session of Commission on Human Rights and the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly were convened in Geneva (18-19 October, 2000) and New York (18-20 October, 2000) respectively. Resolutions adopted by these bodies were supported by India. Government of India have been in touch with the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships on these developments and continue to maintain that the issues involved in the Middle East Peace Process are of immense complexity and, therefore, the need for restraint, avoidance of provocation and to desist from acts which destablise the peace prospects.